

- recovering said HCV envelope protein by affinity purification by means of for instance lectin-chromatography or immunoaffinity chromatography using anti-E1 and/or anti-E2 specific monoclonal antibodies, with said lectin being preferably lentil-lectin, followed by,
- incubation of the eluate of the previous step with a disulphide bond cleavage agent, such as DTT, preferably also in the presence of an SH group blocking agent, such as NEM or Biotin-NEM, and,
- isolating the HCV single or specifically oligomerised E1 and/or E2 and/or E1/E2 proteins by means of gelfiltration and possibly also by means of an additional Ni^{2+} -IMAC chromatography and desalting step.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 49-66 have been added and are pending.

The attached paper copy of the SEQUENCE LISTING is the same as the paper and computer readable form of the SEQUENCE LISTING filed in the parent Application Nos. 08/612,973 and 08/928,017. No new matter has been added. Pursuant to Rule 822(e) no further computer readable copy of the SEQUENCE LISTING is believed required. A separate "Letter" is attached as required by the same Rule. The Office is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required at this time.

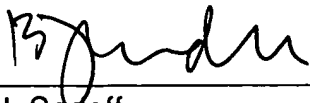
An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE, P.C.

MAERTENS, et al. Not Yet Assigned
(Divisional of Appln. No. 08/928,017)
Preliminary Amendment

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